



Bosnia UPDATE

A Summary of Developments Affecting the Balkans and the Deployment of U.S. Armed Forces by the Staff of the Committee on National Security.

Lloyd Spence, Chairman

Issue Week: 1-15 April 1996

Quotes of the Week:

"Individuals indicted for war crimes are running loose on the territory of the Federation as well as of the Serb Republic. But the fact that Mr. Karadzic and Mr. Mladic are still trying to hang on to public office is particularly provocative — and cannot be tolerated for long."

--Carl Bildt, High Representative for Bosnia, 4/13/96

"You cannot motivate the international community to spend money in a case where... you don't have fulfillment of one of the most central obligations (of the peace agreement)."

--Michael Steiner, deputy to Carl Bildt, 4/6/96

"People don't want to help indicted war criminals stay in power. That's the dilemma on loans to the Republika Srpska."

--White House official, 4/12/96

"The losers here were, in one sense, the people of Srpska, the people, and in another sense, the leaders. Because I think the people will see that the course their leaders are following is having very adverse consequences for them."

--Lawrence Summers, U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary, commenting on the Bosnian Serbs' refusal to attend a reconstruction aid conference, 4/13/96

In Bosnia and the Balkans:

Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and more than 30 other people die in a plane crash near Dubrovnik, Croatia.

The Bosnian government reportedly says it is downgrading relations with Iran in response to U.S. pressure over military ties between the two countries. U.S. intelligence sources say relations will not be severed and report that Iran has offered Bosnia up to \$100 million in assistance.

Croatia pledges to stop arms shipments from Iran to Bosnia from transiting through Croatia.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati declares that Iran's ties to Bosnia "are expanding despite the propaganda of the enemies of Islam."

Bosnian President Izetbegovic calls on Islamic countries to help arm Bosnia. He call aid from Muslim countries "the strongest elements in building a stable peace in this part of the world."

Former NATO SACEUR General John Galvin says U.S. troops will be required to remain in Bosnia

beyond the one year deadline for withdrawal. He says the U.S. public should prepare itself for this eventuality. NATO's current SACEUR, General George Joulwan, dismisses Galvin's prediction as "speculation."

U.N. investigators, with IFOR troops providing security, begin searching a mass grave site in Vlasnica amid reports that Bosnian Serbs have removed corpses from two other grave sites. Dozens of blindfolds are recovered from a suspected grave site in Sahinici. The U.S. military headquarters in Tuzla says U.S. assistance will be provided "within the force's capabilities and when it will not be detrimental to the primary mission."

A new computerized data link between unmanned aerial vehicles flying over Bosnia and military sites in the United States and Europe is expected to go on-line within the next two months. The link will transmit live video, audio, and data. A U.S. intelligence calls it the "next step in evolution of intelligence to our military forces."

Six Muslim men who say they survived a massacre in Srebrenica emerge after hiding for nine months in Bosnian Serb territory.

At a rally in Brka, in Northeast Bosnia, more than 10,000 Croats and Muslims demand to return to

thier homes in the disputed town of Brcko.

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Former Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic forms a new political party and announces his intention to challenge President Izetbegovic for the Bosnian Presidency in the elections scheduled for September.

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U.N. High Representative Carl Bildt says that the civilian reconstruction of Bosnia is "critical" to the success of the peace agreement.

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Yugoslavia and Macedonia establish diplomatic relations. The European Union says it is willing to grant diplomatic recognition to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In The Hague:

Bosnian Croat General Tihomir Blaskic surrenders to the War Crimes Tribunal, which indicted him on charges of directing the "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims. Zdravko Mucic, who was arrested in Austria last month on war crimes charges, is turned over to the tribunal by Austrian authorities.

In Washington:

A published report says the Clinton Administration tacitly approved the shipment of Iranian arms to Bosnia through Croatia in 1994, raising questions about whether Congress was misled and whether U.S. covert action laws were violated. A six-month review by the President's Intelligence Oversight Board found no violations of U.S. law. President Clinton says "there was absolutely nothing improper done." The Iranian Ambassador to Bosnia says Bosnians "appreciate that they [the United States] did not stop the arms shipments."

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House Speaker Newt Gingrich accuses the Clinton Administration of misleading Congress about its support for Iranian arms shipments to Bosnia. White House spokesman Michael McCurry denies the charge, saying the Administration "never acquiesced, endorsed, or condoned any actions by the government of Iran, and to suggest otherwise is ludicrous."

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JCS Chairman Shalikashvili reiterates that U.S. forces will leave Bosnia after one year. IFOR commander Admiral Leighton Smith says he is "not prepared to make any recommendation about 'stay or go' right now."

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Senator McConnell (R-KY) calls the U.S. peacekeeping operation in Macedonia illegal because it was initiated without Congressional approval. He threatens to block funds for continued peacekeeping operations. Secretary of Defense Perry says U.S. forces may remain in Macedonia after U.S. troops are withdrawn from Bosnia.

In Brussels:

A donor conference on Bosnia reconstruction takes place without participation by Bosnian Serbs, who refuse to attend. Representatives from 50 participating countries pledge a total of \$1.2 billion to assist in the reconstruction effort. The United States pledges another \$219 million on top of the \$63 million it previously pledged. Aid may not go to the Republika Srpska as long as indicted war criminals continue to head its government.

Compliance Watch:

None of Bosnia's three formerly warring factions are said to have fully complied with the requirement to turn in all air defense weapons. IFOR's operations center director, Brigadier General Andrew Cummings, says that "all parties have failed to comply.... We are not satisfied with the figures that we are aware of. In all three cases, the numbers do not tally with what we have seen." The unaccounted for weapons include shoulder-held rocket launchers, surface-to-air missiles, and anti-aircraft artillery.

In response to a threatened cutoff of reconstruction aid, the Bosnian Federation frees 46 Serb prisoners of war and transfers its remaining prisoners to Sarajevo to await a ruling by the War Crimes Tribunal on their future status. Bosnian Serbs reportedly still hold 16 prisoners.

More than 200 prisoners are released by Serbia and returned to Bosnia. An additional 52 prisoners are being held by Serbia on charges that they committed war crimes.

Previous issues and additional background information on any of the items in this UPDATE may be obtained from Tom Donnelly (x65372), David Trachtenberg (x60532), Will Marsh (x56045) on the staff of the House National Security Committee.